

In the Claims

1.-25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) A method of providing security in a network having a network interface device that makes a network connection without a firewall capability in said ~~communication~~ network interface device that is required by the network for data transfer between the network and a host device using the network interface device, said method comprising:

a) allowing, by said network, a connection to said network to be established when said host device uses said network interface device without the required firewall capability only if a firewall device comprising a hardware implemented firewall is coupled to said host device and a configuration integrity check of a software component on said host device passes;

b) receiving data from said network over said connection established via said ~~communication~~ network interface device;

c) processing said data with said hardware implemented firewall; and

d) transferring said processed data to said ~~host device~~; and host device.

~~e) performing a configuration integrity check of a software component on a host device, wherein said configuration integrity check is performed before said network connection is allowed, wherein said connection is allowed only if said configuration integrity check passes.~~

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, ~~wherein e)~~ wherein a) further comprises performing said configuration integrity check by performing a hash on said software component to produce a hash value and comparing said hash value with a stored hash value.

28. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein said stored hash value resides on said firewall device.

29.-30. (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising:

~~f) swapping~~ e) swapping resource spaces in said host device that are reserved for said ~~communication~~ network interface device and said firewall device, wherein said host device treats said ~~communication~~ network interface device as said firewall device and vice versa; and

~~g) said communication~~ f) said network interface device transferring data received from said network in b) to said firewall device, wherein said firewall device processes said data with said hardware implemented firewall.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising:

~~f) transferring~~ e) transferring data to be transferred over said network by said ~~communication~~ network interface device to said firewall device; and

~~g) processing~~ f) processing said data with said hardware implemented firewall, wherein said data is processed by said hardware implemented firewall before it is transferred over said network connection established via said ~~communication~~ network interface device.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 32, wherein said ~~f) comprises~~
e) comprises said host device routing said data to said firewall device before
it is sent to said ~~communication~~ network interface device, said routing taking
place at a physical layer in said data stack.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, ~~further comprising:~~

~~f) performing a configuration integrity check of a software component
on said host device; and~~

~~g) wherein a) further comprises~~ sending policies to said firewall
device, wherein the operation of said hardware implemented firewall is
modified.

35.-39. (cancelled)

40. (currently amended) A method of providing security in a network having
a network interface device that makes a network connection without a
firewall capability in said ~~communication~~ network interface device that is
required by the network for data transfer between the network and a host
device using the network interface device, said method comprising:

allowing, by a network, a connection to said network to be established
when said host device uses said network interface device without the
required firewall capability only if a firewall device comprising a hardware
implemented firewall is coupled to said host device and a configuration
integrity check of a software component on said host device passes;

receiving data from said network over said connection established via
said ~~communication~~ network interface device;

processing said data with said hardware implemented firewall; and

transferring said processed data to said host device; ~~and~~
~~performing a~~ wherein the configuration integrity check of ~~a software~~
the software component on said host device ~~by~~ comprises performing a hash
on said software component to produce a hash value and comparing said
hash value with a stored hash value.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising said
host device routing said data to said firewall device to be processed by said
hardware implemented firewall, said routing taking place at a physical layer
in said data stack.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising:
sending policies to said firewall device, wherein the operation of said
hardware implemented firewall is modified.

43. (cancelled)

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said stored hash
value resides on said firewall device.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising:
sending an alert if said configuration integrity check fails.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising:
storing an alert if said configuration integrity check fails

47. (currently amended) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

swapping resource spaces in said host device that are reserved for said ~~communication~~ network interface device and said firewall device, wherein said host device treats said ~~communication~~ network interface device as said firewall device and vice versa; and

said ~~communication~~ network interface device transferring data received from said network to said firewall device, wherein said firewall device processes said data with said hardware implemented firewall.

48. (currently amended) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

transferring data to be transferred over said network by said ~~communication~~ network interface device to said firewall device; and

g) processing said data with said hardware implemented firewall, wherein said data is processed by said hardware implemented firewall before it is transferred over said network connection established via said ~~communication~~ network interface device.

49. (currently amended) The method of claim 48, wherein said transferring data to be transferred over said network by said ~~communication~~ network interface device to said firewall device comprises:

routing said data from said host device to said firewall device before it is sent to said ~~communication~~ network interface device, said routing taking place at a physical layer in said data stack.

50.-63. (cancelled)